



ACTS

PUBLICATION OF THE
BUFFALO-PITTSBURGH DIOCESE
POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAY • JUNE • JULY 2010

The Stewardship of Time



Have you ever given time to think about the Stewardship of your time in life? It is important that we use that time to the best of our ability and needs, as we share it with our loved ones and friends. We all equally have 168 hours a week to use regardless of who we are, and we need to know how to use these hours wisely. 56 hours are needed weekly for rest and sleep;

40 hours are needed for work and study; 36 hours need to be shared with our family, leaving us 36 spare hours to use as we choose. It is from those 36 hours that at least 3.6 of them need to be reserved for worship and the Church. That is the minimum of 10% of our time of tithing that the Scriptures tell us belongs to God.

Many members of the Church spend a lot more time in prayer and service to the Church than a minimum of 3.6 hours weekly. In fact, they most likely offer 10% or 16.8 hours a week in service and in prayers. 3.6 hours barely gives a person an hour for worship, an hour for daily prayer and 1.6 hours for volunteer service to the needs of the Church. Can you imagine how inefficiently the Parish would restrict their time to the minimum of 3.6 hours per week?

Thank God for the dedicated members who put no limit on their time share with God and His Church. They are the true Stewards of Time, because they give back to God so much more than is expected. They are the "Blessed Ones" who carry the burden of service in a ministry of love and concern. They are the ones who need your support in the larger scheme of plans and projects that the parish sponsors in maintaining fellowship events and fund raisers that help reach the social and financial goals needed to support the Parish.

Let's ask ourselves the question: *Are we giving God those 3.6 hours weekly as our tithing of time? Are we at least giving Him 1 hour for worship and 1 hour for daily prayer and meditation?* The time spent with God in worship and sharing responsibilities with other church members is perhaps the

most important time that we need to consider personally. Those few hours can enrich our spiritual life, increase grace in our souls and feed us spiritually with the Word of God and Sacraments that can sustain us throughout the week.

There is a saying: "Seven days without God makes one weak!" And in reality God is only asking us for 10% of our time, just three hours weekly to strengthen us in His ways and feed us with His love. Some may respond in defense that they spend many more than three hours each week at the Church and yes, that is very commendable if you do so; and helping at a dinner, or bingo, or attending a meeting or rehearsal, does take time, effort and sacrifice. Do you ever think about attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion daily? Do you ever stop by the church just to pray and light a candle for someone's intention? Did you ever consider taking an elderly member to Church for Mass or a weekday service?

There are countless ways to use time for your own spiritual blessings as well. When you sow good deeds through your time and efforts, many people benefit from the rippling effects that are created by what you say and do. Remember that good deeds are meant to go out beyond the walls of the Church, so that they can affect the people of the community you live in. It is there that you can make Jesus known to others by your personal example. Jesus taught us: "If you do a good deed for someone, you have done it unto Me!" Christianity in the early Church grew by leaps and bounds because of the example of love and concern that Christians showed to Non-Christians and people everywhere, especially their enemies.

Think about how you can use the minimum tithing of time so that the 3.6 hours might eventually double or triple as you begin to expand your ability to share more time with God and His people. Pray about tithing, start small and then continue to learn how to develop and expand it without losing or sacrificing a precious moment of your life. In the long run, you will benefit the most from the blessing that you will receive.

In humble service,

+ *Thaddeus S. Peplowski*

† Thaddeus S. Peplowski, Bishop Ordinary

Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral

Recent Activities

The Cathedral Bell and Chime Choir, headed by Jane Kubacki, performed for the Hospice Foundation's "Light a Tree" Memorial Program. The program was held on December 4 at the CTG Corporation in Buffalo.

An excursion to the Niagara Falls Casino was held on January 23. The annual event is sponsored by YMSofR and organized by Donald and Karen Barnes. Three buses took 129 parishioners and friends to the casino and although no one came home a millionaire all returned safely after having a great time.

The traditional Lenten Fish Fries, held on Ash Wednesday and every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday), were as usual popular with parishioners and the surrounding community. Led by Norm Glowka the parish served as many as 750 dinners in a day.

On February 27 the Cathedral Ladies Guild sponsored a "Ladies Night Out" that included a dinner and a dinner theater performance of "The Foreigner" at Desiderio's Restaurant. Approximately 30 people attended and enjoyed this event organized by Marcia Zgoda.

The annual Cathedral Ushers Communion Mass and breakfast was held on March 7. Donald Barnes will continue as Usher Chairman and Dennis Drzewiecki as Treasurer/Scheduleman.

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Blessing of Water Holy Saturday, Bishop Peplowski, Deacon Klusek



Children at Easter Egg Hunt



Palm Sunday main altar



Family at 11:00 Mass, Twin's First Easter Celebration

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The Home and Garden Raffle was held on March 13 at the Parish Center. The \$20 ticket prize included main raffle chances, a dinner, and refreshments. It attracted over 400 people and was run by Tom Nowak and assisted by many with special recognition to Peggy Daehn and Marcia Zgoda. The grand prize, a 46 in. LCD flat screen TV and a Blue Ray disc player, was won by parishioners Conrad and Helen Piechowiak.

The annual Easter Dinner/Swieconka was held on April 11 at the Parish Center. Bishop Peplowski led the congregation in a sing-a-long featuring April Showers and Easter Parade. An Easter egg hunt for the children of the parish, sponsored by the Cathedral Ladies Guild and YMSofR, followed the meal. Prior to the dinner the youth of the parish sang at the 11am mass and the gospel was reenacted by Jesse Kucewicz playing the role of Jesus, Steve Nemeti played Thomas, and Allyson Kucewicz was the narrator.

The weekly Bingo held on Monday afternoons and run by Joe Sodaro continues this year and still is a significant fundraiser. On occasion crowds of over two hundred have attended.

The Cathedral Bowling League, also run by Joe Sodaro, is in its second year of operation and meets on Sunday evenings. Currently there are 24 two member teams and there are also opportunities for the youth to participate. A banquet will be held on May 2.

On April 18 the congregation was honored when Fr. Sn. Walter Madej was the guest celebrant for the 11am mass. Father Madej is the sculptor of many items in the cathedral including the altar, pulpit, side altars, and the Stations of the Cross. Father Madej gave a beautiful homily regarding John 21. On that same day Father Madej received the Citizen of the Year award from the Ampol Eagle, Buffalo's Polish newspaper.

Before this issue of *ACTS* is printed the Cathedral Bell and Chime Choir will have played at the upcoming blessing and dedication of the Parish of Our Lady Church in Brant, New York on April 24.

Upcoming events include the Spring Dance to be held on May 15. It has already been sold out. Special observances will be held at the parish cemetery on Memorial Day to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Resurrection Monument. YMSofR members are strongly encouraged to participate in this event.



11am Mass Easter Sunday



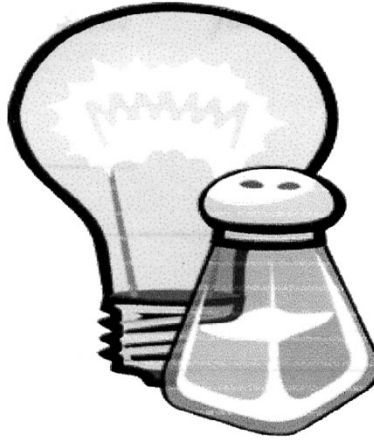
St. Thomas Sunday - SOCL, Children enact the Gospel



Blessing Easter Food, Parish Swieconka, Easter Dinner

The 2010 Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocesan Youth Retreat

"You are the salt of the earth..."



"You are the light of the world!"

-Matthew 5:13-14

Who:	Diocesan youth and guests between the ages 8 and 20
Where:	Camp Wesley Woods in Grand Valley, PA (www.wesleywoods.com)
When:	Sunday, July 4 - Thursday, July 8
Cost:	\$130.00 per PNCC member and \$190.00 per non-PNCC member guest
Included:	Accommodations, meals, activities, snacks and more! (please note: the fee does not include transportation to and from the camp)
Contacts:	Fr. Scott Lill, Diocesan Youth Chaplain, at (814) 378-8347 or your Pastor

See the Spring edition of ACTS or your Pastor for an application.

- * Daily Mass and Prayer!
- * Swimming and other fun outdoor activities!
- * Group sports and games! * Group learning sessions to deepen our friendship with God!
- * Optional horseback riding and challenge ropes course!
- * Creative crafts, a fun Dance, and so much more!
- * Special 4th of July Celebration on Sunday evening!
- * Come meet other young people who share our faith while having a good time!

All applications are due back to Fr. Scott Lill by June 11

2010 Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocesan Youth Retreat Application

"Salt & Light"

Open to all Youth ages 8-20

Camp Wesley Woods in Grand Valley, PA -- Sunday, July 4 through Thursday, July 8

Registration Fee - \$130.00 per PNCC member and \$190.00 per non-PNCC member guests

Application and Registration Fee Deadline: June 11

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

APPLICANT'S NAME: _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: (_____) _____

PARISH: _____ PASTOR: _____

FATHER'S NAME: _____ MOTHER'S NAME: _____

T-SHIRT SIZE: (Check one) CHILD: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

ADULT: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____

SPECIAL NEEDS: If the applicant is under a doctor's care, is in need of special attention, has special dietary needs or is allergic to certain foods, drugs, etc. Please indicate immediately below.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

NAME OF EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE: (_____) _____

MEDICAL INSURANCE INFORMATION: My child is covered by the following insurance:

CARRIER: _____ CARRIER PHONE: _____

GROUP #: _____ MEMBER ID#: _____

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN: _____

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN'S PHONE: _____

PARENT'S PERMISSION:

I, _____ give my permission for my child to attend the Buffalo - Pittsburgh Diocesan Youth Retreat (July 4-8, 2010) and agree that my child will be under the guidance and supervision of the Retreat Committee during that time. I also consent to allow the Retreat Committee, and/or those in charge, to seek medical aid or medical treatment in the event of an emergency or accident.

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

The parent's signature must be on all applications for children under 18 years of age

Holy Trinity National Catholic Church

Woodlawn, New York

The Lenten and Easter season is a time of meditation and introspection, yet, at the same time there are a million things to do or prepare here at Holy Trinity.

The parish held its first Lenten Bible Study at our new Woodlawn Church. Although the class was small, all who attended were motivated, and class participation was outstanding. We studied and discussed the parallels and differences among the four Gospels, as well as how themes and characters were portrayed differently by each Evangelist.

Meditations on the Stations of the Cross were held each Friday during Lent. The service concluded with Benediction, and participants included parishioners and our new neighbors.

The final Confirmation class for Nicole Antonio, Nicole Lamb, and Robert Suszek, was held on March 27, and all demonstrated above average knowledge of the subject matter covered in class. Confirmation is scheduled for April 18, 2010.

Palm Sunday's Gospel retold the story of the Passion with Father Gary, Brownie Puchalski, Michael Muhlbauer, and the Holy Trinity choir taking parts in a dramatic reading of the Passion.

Good Friday Stations reminded us of the solemn state of reflection we are called to in contrast to the joy and celebration to come.

The Blessing of Easter baskets brought the memories of Easter past to mind, as we drooled over the kielbasa, ham, eggs, and fresh breads that make tradition so important. We share this memory with our grandparents, and our children, and hope that it will still continue beyond our time here.

The Easter Vigil Mass has a beautiful and interesting liturgy. The Blessing of New Fire and lighting of the Paschal Candle, Blessing Holy Water, and reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows and included in the Mass.

Easter Sunday was a beautiful, warm day, and the flowers in Church filled the air with their perfumes as we celebrated the Resurrection. Easter brunch was held the following Sunday and many parishioners were more than happy to partake of more kielbasa, ham, eggs and fresh breads.

For Confirmation, on Sunday April 18, we had to depend on the light of the Holy Spirit due to a power outage in the area. The coffee hour/reception for the confirmants in our fellowship hall (in the basement) was dimly lit, but spirits remained bright. No one complained, and much laughter could be heard throughout the festivities.

We are all looking forward to our first, First Holy Communion here in Woodlawn. We also look forward to the many beautiful Sundays summer will bring here near the shores of Lake Erie. Thanks be to God!



Blessing holy water on Holy Saturday



Reading the passion on Palm Sunday



Distribution of Palms on Palm Sunday

“This is the day the Lord has made...”

Dedication of Parish of Our Lady
April 24, 2010

April 24, 2010 will live in the hearts and minds of the people of Parish of Our Lady in Brant New York for years to come. On that day over 100 members, family, friends and supporters gathered at the foot of the doors of the church to witness Bishop Thaddeus Peplowski, Ordinary of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, PNCC read the Warrant that officially recognized the establishment of the parish. Bishop Peplowski along with the Very Rev. Francis Kadryna, the Parish's first Pastor, Very Rev. John Renciewicz (Central Deanery) and Fr. Gary Spencer (Diocesan Chancellor) presided over the Dedication of Parish of Our Lady. Parishioners from Holy Trinity Parish in Woodlawn NY and Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster New York along with representatives from Holy Trinity Parish in New Castle PA joined with members of the newly organized Parish of Our Lady on a bright Saturday afternoon April 24, 2010. Music was provided for the celebration by the Bell Choir of Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral under the direction of Ms. Jane Kubacki and the Harmonia Choir of the Cathedral with organist and director Nelson Koepfel. Also joining in the celebration were Irene Jugan, President of the PNUA, John Andrzejewski, Secretary General of the PNUA and Joan Schunaman, Treasurer of the PNCC who traveled from Scranton PA. After the Solemn High Mass a catered reception was held in the parish hall for all.

During his homily the bishop reminded the faithful that the Parish of Our Lady came about because of their deep faith in the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Parish of Our Lady is the first PNCC parish to be opened on its original worship site, having been purchased from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo after the parish had been closed as part of a program of restructuring in the diocese.



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Fr. Senior Kadryna recounted for the assembled faithful the history of the people and their parish from its humble beginnings in the early 1900's. The parish was originally built by Italian immigrants who came to the USA to find a new life for their families. These simple folk worked as farm laborers on the land owned by wealthier Americans. Over time, these faithful people acquired land and built a small chapel dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so that they might continue to celebrate their Catholic faith. Priests were invited who spoke the Italian language and knew the customs of the people and the parish began to grow. In 1906, believing that Our Lady had interceded in their lives, more land was acquired by donation and the small chapel was moved to the current church site. A more permanent building was erected and the people petitioned the then Catholic Bishop to be adopted into the R.C. Diocese of Buffalo. Having been accepted, the parish was required to sign over the property and land to the diocese. Here they thrived for many years. In 2008 the parish was officially merged with another neighboring village's parish and the church property was placed for sale. A core group of parishioners began a campaign to see if they could reopen their beloved church. They explored many options including nondenominational status, Episcopal, Baptist, and the Anglican Communion. They were finally pointed to the PNCC by the Anglican Chancellor in Erie PA and began conversations with Bishop Pepowski about the possibility of organizing as a Church of the PNCC. An informational meeting was held in January 2009 at which approximately 85-100 people attended to gather information. Another meeting was held later in the Spring during which the parish elected its first parish committee and presented a petition of organization to the Bishop. Shortly thereafter, negotiations began to purchase the original property from the Roman Catholic Diocese and on December 18, 2009 the purchase was finalized. The first Mass was celebrated on Dec. 24, 2009 and since that time Holy Mass has been regularly celebrated with the Bishop appointing the Very Rev. Francis Kadryna as the parish's first administrator. Since December 2009 the Parish of Our Lady has steadily grown in membership despite efforts

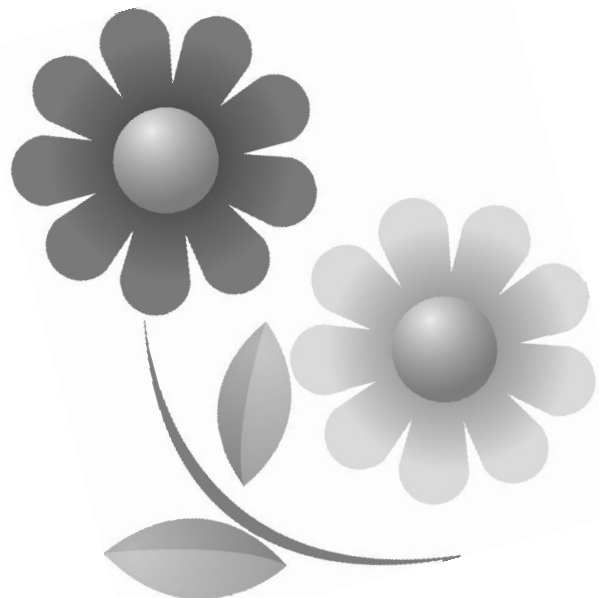
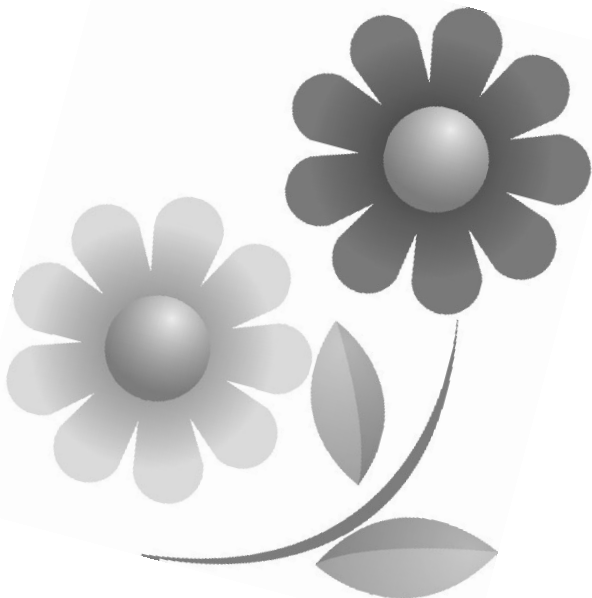


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by some to stand in its way. What the people of Parish of Our Lady have come to believe is that there is no stopping the work of the Gospel. Their faithful witness to the presence of Christ in their lives has given them an almost biblical energy to persevere despite pressures to limit their work. Like the early disciples in the Acts of the Apostles, they find joy in suffering persecution and hardship for the sake of the name of Jesus.

Since its beginnings as Parish of Our Lady activity centering on the Church has increased. There are celebrated now two weekend Masses attended by some 75-80 people with new members being added. Daily Mass with 15-20 regular participants. An active Bible Study on Wednesday evenings, a Food Pantry to help the poor and struggling in the local community, outreach to the Hispanic immigrant farm laborers (remembering their own humble beginnings) who come to the area during the growing season, regular devotions scheduled in May in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, instruction for parents of children not yet baptized in the faith, the organization of a prayer circle to pray for healing, all with an enthusiasm and a passion for their parish community that is reminiscent of the faith of the early organizers of the Polish National Catholic Church. Please keep us in your prayers as we will pray for you.





JULY 26 - 30 • MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

**Convo 2010 - Polish National Catholic Church
 Monmouth University - West Long Branch, NJ
 July 26-30, 2010
 www.Convo2010.org**

R E G I S T R A T I O N F O R M

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____ @ _____

Participant's Cell Phone _____

Name of Parish _____

City _____ State _____

Pastor Signature _____ (required)

Please circle each of the following that applies to you: Male Female Youth Participant Chaperone Clergy Guest

Will you be a small group leader (must be 16 years old)? Yes No

May we publish your name/address/phone/email for Convo Participants? Yes No

Tshirt size: Adult sizes only: Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large XXX-Large

Travel Plans: Car Van Bus Train Airplane

FYI: NJ Transit trains run directly to the University or Airport

Arrival time and date: _____ Departure time and date: _____

Airline _____ Flight # (if known) _____ Airport _____ (Newark Recommended)

*Please complete this entire form and mail it together with the registration fee of \$285.00 per person (\$310.00 per person if after June 1, 2010) to:
 Convo 2010, c/o Central Diocese Chancery, 515 E. Locust Street, Scranton, PA 18505
 Please include a check made payable to: Convo 2010 Committee*

***** No registrations will be accepted after June 25, 2010. *****

PLEASE NOTE:

- Your completed registration form and check payment must be received at the above address by June 1st to take advantage of our discounted rate.
- Registration forms will not be accepted after June 25, 2010.
- By registering, every participant must have read and will abide by the Convo 2010 rules and regulations.
- Everyone 17 years of age or younger must have a parent or guardian sign this form in agreement with the terms stated herein.
- You must have one adult chaperone for every 8 youth participants in your group.
- Requests for refunds must be made before June 25, 2010.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish

Lilly, PA

Greetings once again from Lilly, PA, and a happy Spring to all! In January, we held the election of officers to the Parish Committee with the addition of some new members. Some new projects were added to the continuing improvement of our facilities. Insulation was added to those areas of the building that were not previously included. A new washer and dryer were also added to our appliances which help to take care of the soiled linens and towels after dinners.

On January 11, we held a Soup Sale featuring four different varieties. It proved to be successful, and we are looking forward to another one in the future. Father Lill's daughter Clara, celebrated her first birthday with a party at St. Barbara's Parish in Houtzdale. Some members of our Parish participated and greatly enjoyed themselves.

On February 8, we held a Money-O-Rama at the Cassandra Fire Hall, since it can accommodate over 400 people. Our cooks prepared a delicious roast beef dinner, and we are grateful to all who helped prepare the food, transport equipment and who helped to make this a tremendous success. Our event was well attended and all who were present enjoyed themselves. A country

Fried Chicken Dinner was held at our Parish Hall on Sunday, March 15. The event was a huge success. We thank the cooks and all workers who served food and helped clean up after the event.

We held a Mardi Gras celebration in our Parish Hall on Tuesday, February 24. A meal was served to those who attended and it was a nice event at which to relax and enjoy the occasion. Fr. Scott's daughter Anna won a prize when a tiny baby doll was found in her piece of the King's Cake. Elizabeth Lasinski made her first confession at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church this March, and will receive her First Communion at All Saints Church in Carnegie. Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament were held every Tuesday during Lent. We congratulate Pat R. and Pat L. Podrasky for completing a course on "Cooking For Crowds." Since they are now experts in cooking, they can now join the ranks of others who will be cooking in the future.

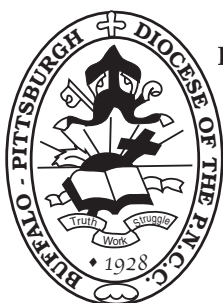
*Phyllis Podrasky
Correspondent*



General Synod Update

All Parishes in the Diocese should have delegates elected to represent their congregations at the coming 23rd General Synod of the PNCC that will be held from the 4th to the 8th of October, 2010. A meeting of the elected delegate will be held on Saturday, September 11th at Holy Trinity Parish, New Castle, PA, beginning at 10 AM. A brief meeting of the Diocesan Council will follow after lunch. More details will be given in the summer edition of *ACTS*.

We remind those who have been elected as a delegate to the General Synod, that they are required to have a valid US Passport in order to gain entrance into Canada. There are no exceptions to this law. If you do not have a current US Passport, we suggest that you apply for one as soon as possible. The applications are usually available at your local post office.



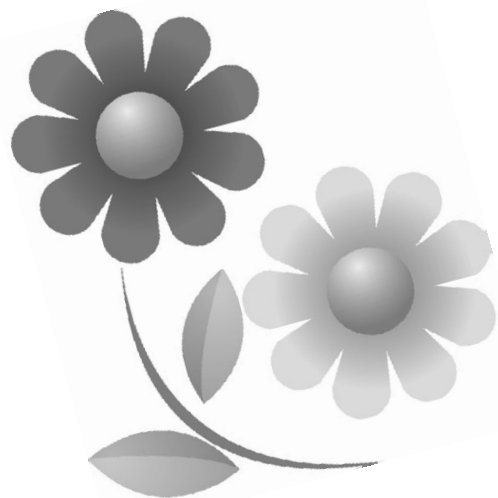
BUFFALO - PITTSBURGH DIOCESE
POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
RIGHT REV. THADDEUS S. PEPOWSKI
5776 Broadway, Lancaster, New York 14086-2359

**"ACTS" IS A PUBLICATION
OF THE
BUFFALO - PITTSBURGH DIOCESE**

**INFORMATION FOR ACTS
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2010
PLEASE RETURN TO THE EDITOR
NO LATER THAN JULY 10, 2010**

Return Address: Editor of ACTS c/o
Diocesan Chancery
5776 Broadway
Lancaster, NY 14086-2359
Ph. (716) 685-5767 Fax: (716) 685-5768

- 1) **Articles relating to current events**
- 2) **Articles regarding events in your parish**
- 3) **Editorial Articles**
- 4) **Calendar of Events**
- 5) **Deanery Activities and Meetings**
- 6) **Societies of the Church Information**
ie. Y.M.S. of R., S.A.M.B.S. (A.N.S.),
U.Y.A. (Youth Club), Senior Citizens, etc.



From the Office of the Bishop

Confirmation was held at Holy Trinity Parish, Woodlawn, NY, on Sunday, April 18th.

Confirmation will be held at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, Lancaster, NY, on Sunday, May 23rd at 10:00 Mass.

Confirmation will be held at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Canonsburg, PA, on Sunday, June 13th at 9:00 am Mass.

The Rev. Father Mark Gniedzicki has been transferred to the Easter Diocese of the PNCC as of March 1, 2010.

The Rev. Father Melvin Walczak has been assigned to St. Casimir Parish, Rochester, NY, as of March 1, 2010.

All elected Parish Committee Members for 2010 have been ratified by the Bishop. Their names, addresses, telephone, fax and email addresses are to be forwarded to the Diocesan office.

All changes of address or deletion from ACTs should be completed on a regular basis. The changes should be sent to: Buf/Pit Diocese mailing list, 5776 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086-2359. The email is: buffpittpncc@aol.com

Coming Events in the Diocese

United SAMBS of Central & Southern Deaneries Annual Meeting was held Sunday, May 2nd at 4 pm at Holy Trinity Parish, Stowe Twp., PA.

The 65th Annual YMSR/PNCC Bowling Tournament will be held in Scranton, PA, May 21st & 22nd.

The month of June is dedicated to SACRED VOCATIONS - Help to encourage vocations to the priesthood and diaconate program.

The Annual Clergy Pension Fund Collection will be taken on Father's Day, June 20th, in every Parish of the Diocese.

THE DIOCESAN YOUTH RETREAT will be held from July 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th at Camp Wesleywoods, PA. Registration forms are included in ACTS and available in every Parish.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH CONVOCATION will be held at Monmouth University, Long Branch, NJ from July 26th to July 30th. Applications are also available in every Parish.